Construction of new air field in U.P.

817. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have four new air fields in Uttar Pradesh hills with a view to boost tourism;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) by when these air fields are likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government have approached the private air taxi operators to start their services in the hill areas, if so, what is their response thereto and by when these services are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Purchase of TU-204 aircraft

818. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to purchase the 214 Seater TU-204 aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of forests in Karnataka district in Tamil Nadu

819. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are big forests with natural background by the side of Western Ghats in Kamarajar District in Tamil Nadu which can attract the tourists in a large number; and

(b) if so, whether Govednment propose to consider any programme to develop these forests to attract tourists?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Development of a tourist spot is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Central Government extends financial assistance on the basis of specific project proposals received from State Governments. So far, no proposal has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu to develop tourist facilities for attracting tourists to these forests in Kamarajar District.

Damage of "Courtallam" Tourist spot in Tamil Nadu by Cyclonic Floods

820. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Courtallam, in Tamil Nadu, an attractive tourist spot was totally damaged during the recent cyclonic floods, that ravaged the Southern Districts of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has approached the Central Government for funds to repair damage;

(c) if so, what has been the response of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Central Government would call for a report from the State Government on the damage caused to Courtalam during the last cyclonic floods?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.